



## ALA MOANA/KAKAAKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
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### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

MAKIKI CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair John Breinich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Breinich, Jennifer Gerard, Nancy Hedlund, Larry Hurst, Marilyn Michaels, Dyane Sih.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joyce Kurtz.

**GUESTS:** Donna Kiyosaki (Mayor's Representative), Councilmember Ann Kobayashi, Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's office), Senator Gordon Trimble, Kristi Su-Ako (Senator Trimble's office), Representative Bev Harbin, Captain Lester Hashimoto (HFD), Off. Elton Roberson, Sgt. Thomas Reyes and Lt. Curtiss Loui (HPD), Howard Tanaka (BWS), Lester Chang and Dana Takahara-Dias (DPR), Melvin Lee (DDC), Daniel Dinell (HCDA), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project), Mark Tonini (Meadow Gold), Mike Polovcio (Hawai'i Convention Center), Karl Rhoads (Downtown Neighborhood Board), Tom Brower (Waikiki Neighborhood Board), Gary Fujitani, Roy Gritter, Amy Mintz, Dexter Okada, Frances Shintani, Rex Saunders, Sonia Trimble, Steve J. Rodrigues (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Captain Lester Hashimoto reported: 1) For the month of March, the Pawaa Fire Station responded to 12 fires, 107 medical emergencies, 19 search and rescues, and 5 miscellaneous calls. 2) Safety Tip: "Prepare a fire escape plan. Map out your escape routes with at least two ways out of each room. Designate a location outside of the house where everyone can meet. Find the closest phone and call 911."

In response to Michaels about a fire in a condo, Captain Hashimoto answered HFD recommends residents stay in their condo unit and do not use the elevators. Firemen will get to the residents. He could bring brochures pertaining to this issue. Chair Breinich asked if HFD checks with condo managers. Captain Hashimoto answered yes, they work with all condos. HFD tries to get all condos to put in knox boxes.

**HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Sgt. Thomas Reyes reported: 1) The statistics for the months of March and February were: 8/5 robberies; 20/14 burglaries; 94/89 UEMV (unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle); 27/35 auto thefts; 5/6 aggravated assaults; 46/44 simple assaults; 248/213 motor vehicle collisions; 24/35 DUI; 7/7 sex assault; 6/14 family offenses; 67/53 drug offenses, 12/7 graffiti. 2) He circulated a pamphlet on False Burglar Alarms.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY –** Howard Tanaka reported: 1) There were four water main breaks in March and none thus far in April. 2) Kapiolani Boulevard Water and Sewer Improvement Project – the construction contract documents are being processed. The construction manager contract has been executed. BWS instructed the construction manager to meet with the contractor to finalize the construction schedule. Once the schedule is established, BWS will hold public information meetings and mailings to share the schedule details and alert the public of the impending project schedule. 3) The winners of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Conservation Week Poster Contest were announced yesterday. Unfortunately, there were no winners from this Neighborhood Board district. 4) Public hearing on water rates will be held on May 15, BWS Board Room, 2:00 p.m. BWS is recommending a 13% increase from \$1.77 per thousand gallons to \$2.00 per thousand gallons. It would represent a \$3.23 increase in the typical residential customer's monthly charge. The last increase was on July 1, 1995. 5) Water conservation tip: "The height at which you mow your lawn can have a direct effect on how much and how often you water it. Leaving grass cuttings on your lawn can help the soil retain moisture naturally."

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:** The Board approved the minutes with the following correction:

Page 4, under HCDA, item No. 1, delete "quadroons" and insert "quadrants". Also same item should say "...businesses on Cooke Street and other areas in Kakaako that have had improvement district work."



**APPROVAL OF MARCH 28, 2006 MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:** Chair Breinich noted the Board can't approve the memorandum for the record because technically it wasn't a meeting. The issue is currently being reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Deferred.

**RESIDENTS' CONCERNS:**

**Traffic Issues** – Karl Rhoads said a dedicated left-turn lane is needed exiting Ala Moana Beach Park onto Kamakee Street. Also, a stoplight is needed at Makaloa and Sheridan Streets. Chair Breinich asked Michaels, Chair of the Transportation Committee, to follow-up.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND KEY ORGANIZATIONS:**

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

**Filling of Vacancies in Subdistrict 1** – Chair Breinich said in addition to the one vacancy in subdistrict 1 there is an additional vacancy due to the recent resignation of Robert Fowler. Chair Breinich asked if there were any resident willing to fill the vacancy in subdistrict 1. There were no candidates.

**Ala Moana Beach Park Update** – Lester Chang, Director of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated Ala Moana Beach Park has been closed between the hours of 10:00 p.m. – 4:00 a.m. from March 27 to April 25. Beginning today the park will be closed for three days for much needed improvements and maintenance. The park will reopen on Friday. DPR has pruned trees, put in irrigation, fixed plumbing, painted the comfort stations, etc. The Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) has realigned the roads, repainted parking stalls and crosswalks, etc. Permission has been granted from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to move sand from the Ewa side of the beach to the middle beach. They are not going to close the park too often for maintenance so they appreciate the opportunity. There have been minimum disruptions to joggers, walkers, etc.

There was lengthy discussion on this issue. Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chang answered: a) The collapsed wall, alongside Ala Moana Boulevard, would have to be fixed by DFM. There are also seawall problems in the park; b) The park closure was done by his authority. Because of the tremendous feedback, he extended it to the end of June. He favors closing it at night, but the Mayor will make the final decision. He asked the Board to make a recommendation; c) Three-fourths of the parks islandwide have park closures, most are from 10:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m. He is proposing 4:00 a.m. because there are a lot of people who run early in the morning. The primary reason for closing the park was for safety. There are a lot of undesirable activities at night that shouldn't be occurring. It's a difficult problem for police to enforce; d) Even if they close the park, they wouldn't close the beach. Also, there is no way they would close the roadway. Only the interior of the park would be close. Most of the people go to the park for recreation activities (i.e. fishing, etc.). Camping is not allowed at the park; e) Families have been voicing their concern that they don't feel comfortable letting their children go to the restroom. DPR is trying to improve the park for all users. Limited closure is easier to enforce. Ala Moana is a day-use park. People use it on a first-come first-serve basis.
- 2) Chair Breinich mentioned he received a lot of calls and letters in support of the closing. The park has changed significantly since the closing.
- 3) Chair Breinich said there is a rule of no camping, but it is not being enforced. Chang answered it is difficult to say if people are camping or not. If DPR would allow camping, a public hearing would need to be held and it would need to be open to everyone. The homeless population has increased tremendously. They are still welcome to the park (to shower, shave, etc.), but after 4:00 a.m. He has been getting a lot of feedback that he has to do something with Ala Moana Beach Park and other City parks. A proposal he made to the Mayor was to have limited park closure hours.
- 4) Hurst stated the Board should support anything that helps police resources.

- 5) Resident Roy Gritter indicated the fewer homeless people in the park results in fewer break-ins in the surrounding area. A number of bikes have been stolen.
- 6) A resident said he supports the park closure. Some areas of the park have been manipulated by the homeless. It has gotten worse over time.

**Michaels moved and Hurst seconded that the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11 support closing Ala Moana Beach Park nightly during the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Police Station Crime Lab** – Melvin Lee, Department of Design and Construction, stated the crime lab at the Main Police Station will be expanded and renovated. Federal, state and city law enforcement officials use the lab. Architects Hawai'i is the contractor. The project will cost \$9 million. Construction will begin early next year and will be completed in 10 months. The project needs to be added to the Public Facilities Map.

**Loading Zone Removal fronting 1001 Waimanu Street** – No representative was available.

**June Neighborhood Board Recess** – Chair Breinich mentioned the Board usually recess two times per year. He will be out of town in June and so will other members. **Hedlund moved and Gerard seconded that the Ala Moana/Kakaako Neighborhood Board No. 11 recess in June. The motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE** – Hedlund stated there are three bills alive in the Legislature relating to development of Kakaako Makai. The bills are being heard in conference committees. There have been rallies and demonstrations on this issue.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE:** Jennifer Gerard, resident manager for Waterfront Towers, had concerns that during the recent flood, sewer water was backed up into their building. They had hardly any help from the City. She questioned how would the City handle additional growth in the area when they can't take care of the current infrastructure.

**Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA)** – Daniel Dinell reported: 1) He circulated "Kaka'ako Connection", HCDA's newsletter. The newsletter is sent out three times a year to 8,500 addresses, mostly in Kakaako, but includes all elected officials as well as anybody who requests to be on the mailing list. 2) HCDA is seeking public input on the draft Policy and Development Strategy Plan for the Ala Moana Historic Pump Station and developable lands in the Ewa portion of the Kakaako Makai area. 3) A public informational meeting for the Mauka area rules will be held in late May. This is the land ordinance for Kakaako. For more information, call or email HCDA. 4) He will be unable to attend May's meeting. 5) At the April HCDA's meeting, the University of Hawai'i spoke about a potential Regional Biocontainment Lab (RBL) on the medical school's phase II site. HCDA expressed concern that they hadn't yet gotten community input. The National Institute of Health may not even consider the site change from the original location in Pearl City and that they absolutely would work with the community once it seemed viable. 6) Action is anticipated at next week HCDA's meeting to install a marker commemorating the solo voyage of Florintino Dias in a self made boat. 7) HCDA has asked the owner of the NCR building on Kapiolani Boulevard to contact the Neighborhood Board to make presentation on their renovation. 8) As always, HCDA's monthly meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 1000.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Chair Breinich mentioned that the NCR building issue is scheduled for May's meeting.
- 2) Hedlund said the RBL is a legislative catch-22 proposal. She spoke to UH officials. When the project is funded the Board needs to have a serious presentation.

**Victoria Ward** – No report or representative was available.

**TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION** – Michaels stated: 1) Department of Transportation Services (DTS) sent the Board a letter regarding the possibility of removing the mid-block crosswalk at King Street and Archer Lane. 2) She spoke with TheBus official regarding the bus stop removal project. They will send a representative to the give an

update to the Board when a new project is scheduled to begin in the area. DTS will not remove the bus stop at Kapiolani Boulevard and Sheridan Street.

**Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP)** – Pat Lee circulated a brochure titled “Honolulu On The Move”, an update on the HHCTCP. In addition, he stated the project consultants are still evaluating the four alternatives: no build alternative; Transportation System Management alternative; Managed Lane alternative; and Fixed Guideway alternative. A new newsletter will be available next month. For more information, visit [www.honolulutransit.org](http://www.honolulutransit.org). He requested to make a full presentation at July's meeting.

**HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY/ LIQUOR AND ADULT ESTABLISHMENTS** – Hurst circulated a resolution relating to the Liquor Commission. He asked that this resolution be placed on next month's agenda

**LEGISLATIVE AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS** – No report.

**PARKS & WATERWAYS** – Hedlund asked that her resolution requesting the Legislature to designate a Honolulu Historic Waterfront District from Nu'uuanu Stream to Kewalo Basin and require the appropriate community-based master planning process for this historic district, be taken off the agenda.

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Governor's Representative** – No report or representative was available.

**Senator Carol Fukunaga** – Senator Fukunaga sent her regrets.

**Senator Gordon Trimble** – Kristi Sue-Ako circulated Senator Trimble's monthly report. In addition, Senator Trimble stated: 1) He asked everyone to check with the State Department of Health (DOH) regarding the Regional Biocontainment Lab (RBL) proposal in Kakaako. DOH has major concerns about putting it in Kakaako. The Neighborhood Board should weigh in as to its location. 2) He's not sure what will be the outcome of the bills relating to Kakaako. He thinks the Board's position is correct (requesting an immediate hold on all actions of HCDA regarding Kakaako Makai development). 3) Included in his report is an article on immigration and assimilation.

**Representative Bev Harbin** – Representative Harbin stated she believes the House will pass out a bill tomorrow relating to Kakaako. There will be some resolution. The House is very serious of getting something out. She doesn't think the House will take that big leap and pass a bill prohibiting the sale of any State land in Kakaako. On Thursday, there will be a hearing on returning Kakaako back to the City. The House is not in support of that measure. She has always been a grass-roots activist. The impact on the “Save Our Kakaako” supporters with their rallies and marches, weighed heavily on the Legislators.

Michaels had concerns about affordable housing. This City has a problem with rentals since there are not many apartment buildings. She asked what can be done to encourage this type of development. Representative Harbin answered Kukui Gardens will be one of eight projects that will come on the market in four years. It will open up 10,000 rental units. Hedlund added the lost of all those apartments will have a huge impact on college students.

**Representative Scott Saiki** – Councilmember Kobayashi circulated Representative Saiki's monthly report.

**Representative Anne Stevens** – Representative Steven's monthly report was circulated. Representative Steven's sends her regrets.

**Mayor's Representative** – Donna Kiyosaki reported: 1) Follow-up: DTS changed the red light to a red left turn arrow at King and Pensacola Streets in December 2005, as reported at last month's meeting. 2) The City has been busy cleaning up after the flood. The Mayor thanks everyone for their patience. 3) The Neighborhood Assistant circulated “Honolulu News”, the Mayor's monthly newsletter.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Hurst requested the overhead green light (that is meant for traffic going straight on Pensacola) to have a red

left arrow under it in addition to the red arrow at the corner. He states that drivers see the green light (and miss the red arrow at the corner) and turn left on the green light causing pedestrian safety issues. He is requesting an additional red arrow next to the green light. Kiyosaki will follow-up.

- 2) Hedlund asked for a status report on the Mayor's Chinatown Summit on the homeless issue. Kiyosaki answered the City has been meeting with the State and faith-based organizations on this issue. At today's cabinet meeting, the Mayor said people are coming together on this issue and finding a solution. She will follow-up.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi** – Councilmember Kobayashi circulated her monthly report. In addition, she stated: 1) The City Council is working on the second draft of the budget. 2) Liquor Commission will be buying a lot of new equipment. The new director seems like a good choice. 3) The Council is hoping to provide property tax relief, but not as much as they wanted because of the costs to repair the sewers. Priority is on the sewer system. They can't allow the dumping of the sewage to happen again. Money will also go to public safety and parks. Property tax relief is available for those who sustained damage to their property as a result of the recent flood.

Concerns and comments followed:

- 1) Michaels noted that Hawai'i residents pay extremely low property tax rates compared to other states. Residents should pay for garbage pickup.
- 2) In response to Hurst, Councilmember Kobayashi stated the Mayor is putting in more recycling centers. Green waste recycling is expanding. More Public Service Announcements (PSA) will be done. Michaels said there need to be recycling bins everywhere (i.e. parks, airports, hotels, etc.). It's a simple fix to the problem.

**Councilmember Rod Tam** – Shawn Hamamoto circulated Councilmember Tam's monthly report and was available for questions.

Hurst had concerns that Councilmember Tam's report is not current. Hamamoto explained that the report is published earlier in the month and the Board meets at the end of the month.

**ADJOURNMENT:** By consensus, the Board adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Submitted by:

Steve J. Rodrigues,  
Neighborhood Assistant